

The Stretham Scoop

Friday 20th March 2026



A bi-weekly round up of what's happening in our school!



Mr Sweeney's shout out:

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring has most certainly 'sprung' and the temperatures are slowly creeping up, which means that the children are back on the field at break and lunch time. It is lovely to hear the purposeful and positive play that is taking place outside. Our OPAL provision is most certainly making a difference to play times and we are looking forward to being able to share more of this with you in the summer term!

Last week, the school was awash with scientific discussion and investigation as we held our 'STEM week.' A huge thank you to Mrs Bowen and Mrs Dunham for organising this. It was wonderful seeing hoop glider investigations being undertaken by every year group, and to see the whole school joining in with a 'live' science lesson on Friday too. Often, it is easy to forget that subjects such as Science, the humanities or Art and DT form just as an important part of a child's education as English and Maths, and it is great to hear children enjoying our themed weeks more frequently. I was told by two of our Year Six pupils 'Making the hoop gliders was really challenging, it is amazing to think that the size of the hoop can have such an impact on the distance flown.'

In our assemblies this week, we have discussed the influence of inspiring individuals, particularly those who are the same age as our children! We have discussed at length the charity Ryan's Well and how this was created by a boy named Ryan Hreljac in Canada at only 6 years old! We also discussed Ryan Hulance whose can collecting has raised over £18,000 for charity too, as you may have seen in the news!

We are receiving an increasing number of reports around children accessing a range of content that would be considered not 'age appropriate'. We have compiled the guidance below to support their use of youtube online.

Youtube and Youtube Kids:

Helping your child use YouTube and YouTube Kids safely

YouTube is hugely popular with children. It can be fun, creative and educational, but like any online space, it isn't risk free. Even apps designed for children, such as YouTube Kids, can sometimes show content that isn't right for younger viewers.

⚠ What parents and carers should know about the risks

Most children start by watching something completely harmless. The risk usually comes from how the platform works, not from what they set out to watch. Some common ways children can come across unsuitable content include:

Autoplay: one video can quickly lead to another without your child choosing it.

How parents/carers can reduce this risk:

Turn Autoplay off in settings; encourage children to choose videos rather than letting videos be chosen for them; check what the next suggested video is if Autoplay is left on; use YouTube Kids 'Approved Content Only' mode where possible

Search: children might search for something innocent but get unexpected results

How parents/carers can reduce this risk: Turn off search in YouTube Kids; sit with children when they are searching, especially younger primary-aged children; talk about what to do if they see something confusing or upsetting; save or subscribe to trusted channels so children can go straight to safe content.

Adverts: young children can struggle to tell the difference between adverts and videos.

How parents/carers can reduce this risk: Explain simply what an advert is (for example: "This is trying to sell you something"); watch together sometimes so you can talk about adverts when they appear; consider using YouTube Kids, which usually has fewer and more age-appropriate adverts; teach children not to click on adverts or pop-ups without checking with you first

Even YouTube Kids, while safer, is not perfect because content is filtered by systems rather than checked by a person first.

A helpful mindset for parents and carers:

It can help to think of YouTube like a busy public place. There are lots of great things there, but children still need guidance, boundaries and support while they learn how to navigate it safely. You don't have to know everything about technology. Staying curious, setting simple rules, and keeping conversations open are some of the most powerful safety tools you have.

Thank you

On a personal note, following the letter shared by Mr J Rist last week, I wanted to thank you for all of your well-wishes. I am now in full on Ostrich mode and burying my head in the sand until August! There is a lot still to look forward to and a lot still to do before then! Have a fantastic weekend, when it arrives

Thank you for your support, as always.

'Achieving Potential Together As a School Family.'

- Compassionate - Curious - Courageous - Resilient - Inclusive



Safeguarding @ Stretham:

Important update for parents and carers: Understanding AI and the new UK law

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has rapidly become a part of our children's digital playground. From creating imaginative stories to generating funny images, AI tools offer endless possibilities. However, it's crucial to be aware of how innocent fun can sometimes cross into harmful territory.

The appeal of AI for children

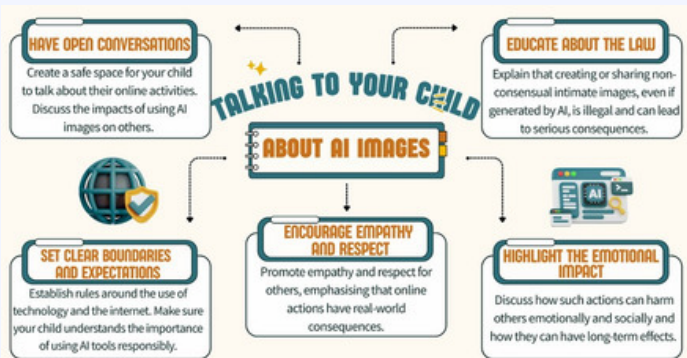
Children are naturally curious and love to experiment. AI tools that can transform photos or generate images can be fascinating. They might use these tools to create humorous pictures of themselves or friends, thinking it's all in good fun.

When fun turns harmful

What starts as a joke can quickly escalate. Altering images to make someone look silly can lead to embarrassment or bullying. More concerning is the potential to create or share images that are inappropriate or indecent, even if unintentionally. Such actions can have serious emotional impacts on all involved.

The legal perspective

The UK has stringent laws to protect individuals from the creation and distribution of indecent images, especially involving minors. Even digitally altered images fall under these laws. It's essential to understand that: Creating or sharing indecent images of anyone under 18 is illegal, regardless of intent. Possessing such images, even if created as a joke, is a criminal offence. Encouraging others to create or share these images is also against the law.



Attendance update:

Well done to the following classes with the highest attendance figures this week which are above the 95% threshold:

Rabbit 96.5%
Hedgehog 96.4%
Kestrel 96.2%

Please ensure that you make the office aware of any absences by **9am**, at the latest, each morning. You can do this via email, the telephone, Arbor or via our Studybugs app. We now have a dedicated absence line, which is sent directly to the office email too. Please use the method of communication that is most convenient for you.

Letters Sent Home:

Ruby House - non uniform day 25 March 2026
Pupil Permission to walk home - Year 5 and Year 6
Year 6 leavers hoodies - link to website to order
Parent Feedback form
Easter Holiday Voucher Scheme - FSM
Details of Emily Norman - EIFA



Key Diary Dates:

Scholastic Book Fair - Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 March 2026
LKS2 Production - 25 March 2026 at 9.15am and 26 March 2026 at 1.30pm
Kestrel Class West Stow class trip - 14 April 2026
Bikeability Level 1 - 5 May 2026

A very happy birthday to...

Oscar, Tallulah, Elsie, Kovie, Ashley, Bryony, Ophelia, Matilda, Henry, Ivy, Savannah, Eddie, Jake

We hope you have a wonderful day!



World Book Day Competition Winners

After our World Book Day competition, the following prizes have been awarded!

KS1:

- Winner: Lacey (model in the library) - we really loved it's bright, colourful, Wonka-like style and the intricate swirls and shapes used
- Runner-up: Harriet - we really liked the details in your picture as well as the lovely creative ideas for additions to the factory

KS2:

- Winner: Heidi - we really loved the colourful, artistic design and were delighted with the inclusion of a golden ticket
- Runner-up: Spencer (picture in the office) - we loved the creative collage with lots of hard work. We really liked the idea of a honey badger in the factory.

Special Award: Wren class for their group entry - you can find their book in the library near the World Book Day shelf.

Overall winner:

- Hugo (model in the library) - we loved the detail of the model - especially the flow of chocolate into the chocolate river.

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